

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 /085 W

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R 131907Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9022

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02400

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, XF

SUBJECT: ZIONISTS QUIZ FCO ON BRITISH POSITIONS IN UN  
SECURITY COUNCIL

1. DURING LAST TWO WEEKS FCO, AT BOTH FOREIGN SECRETARY AND DEPARTMENT HEAD LEVEL, HAS BEEN RECEIVING DELEGATIONS AND LETTERS FROM HEADS OF BRITISH ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS QUIZZING FCO ABOUT BRITISH ABSTENTIONS IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON MIDDLE EAST VOTE IN JANUARY. LETTER FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY TO LORD FISHER, QUOTED IN JEWISH OBSERVER AND JEWISH CHRONICLE, NOTED BRITISH ORIGINALLY OPPOSED PARTICIPATION OF PLO IN DEBATE BUT ABSTAINED IN JANUARY ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE UK HAD TO "TAKE ACCOUNT OF" FACT COUNCIL HAD DECIDED PLO SHOULD PARTICIPATE.

2. ON QUESTION OF BRITISH ABSTENTION ON SUBSTANTIVE VOTE ON RESOLUTION, URWICK OF FCO FURNISHED EMBOFF WITH STANDARD POLIAY LANGUAGE USED IN LETTERS TO ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS YOUNG HERUT. KEY PARA READS AS FOLLOWS:  
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BEGIN QUOTE: IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW A VETO WOULD NOT

HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED. THE DRAFT ALREADY INCLUDED LANGUAGE FROM RESOLUTION 242 ABOUT THE NEED TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES. TO HAVE VETOED IT WOULD HAVE IMPLIED THAT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 ALONE STILL PROVIDE ALL THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. AS THE GOVERNMENT HAVE OFTEN STATED, THEY CONSIDER THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. THE PALESTINIANS MUST ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, NOT JUST AS REFUGEES BUT AS A PEOPLE WITH POLITICAL RIGHTS. END QUOTE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF FEBRUARY 12 URWICK NOTED JEWISH OBSERVER HAD INCORRECTLY INTERPRETED HIS LETTER WHEN IT STATED "BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS THUS LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT IT NO LONGER REGARDS THESE RESOLUTIONS WITH SAME IMPORTANCE IT ONCE DID." (NOTE: LATER ISSUE OF JEWISH OBSERVER FEBRUARY 13 EVIDENTLY GOT IT STRAIGHT BY STATEMENT THAT IN FEBRUARY 5 MEETING WITH ZIONIST LEADERS "CALLAGHAN SAID THAT RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY RECOGNITION OF NEED TO FIND IN ANY LASTING SETTLEMENT A PLACE FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.") URWICK SAID CALLAGHAN MET COMPLAINTS BY BRITISH ZIONISTS AT FEB5 MEETING BY STATING THAT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR HAD JUST BEEN IN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT BRITISH POSITIONS DURING THE DEBATE FROM ARAB POINT OF VIEW. ACCORDING TO JEWISH OBSERVER LABOR MP MOONMAN LATER SPOKE ABOUT "ANXIETIES WHICH WE FEEL" AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING. HOWEVER, URWICK DID NOT CONSIDER REACTIONS BY THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS TO BE A MAJOR BLOW-UP HERE. ON BALANCE, URWICK THOUGHT THE UK HAD ALSO GOTTEN AWAY WITH COMPARATIVELY LITTLE FLAK FROM THE ARABS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED. HE SAID THE ISRAELI EMBASSY HERE HAD NOT COMPLAINED DIRECTLY.

4. URWICK DID EXPRESS APPREHENSION ABOUT ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUES HANGING OVER US SUCH AS UPCOMING EXPIRATION DATE OF UNDOF, AND SAID BRITISH HOPE TO HEAR SOON WHAT US WILL PROPOSE IN WAY OF NEXT STEPS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINORITIES, ZIONISM, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ZIONISTS QUIZ FCO ON BRITISH POSITIONS IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UK, XF, UNSC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006